

Reclaim Education

Notes on the global struggle

Spring of Resistance - Global Days of Action

The Global Days of Action from march 24th-26th will mark the first peak of the Spring of Resistance in 2011.

On Thursday 24th (the "Day of Rage Against Cuts") students, workers and the public will rally at city hall in New York City (USA). Activists in Paris (France) will demonstrate in solidarity with Russian students in the

fight for emancipatory education free from economic oppression.

The struggle will continue with the "education is a right" rally in Den Haag (Netherlands) on Friday 25th of March as part of a national week of action. French activists will send a wake-up call wherever they are by ringing a buzzer at 2pm. Feel free to join them and spread the message!

Also on Friday anti-cuts demonstrations in Graz (Austria) will be accompanied by student activists leading up to the actions on 26th in Vienna against austerity measures destroying education, solidarity and our ecological basis of existence.

On Saturday March 26th hundreds of thousands will rise together in different places all over the world! Espe-

cially in London (UK) where it is expected to have massive demonstrations in different locations, including: walkouts, bank-occupations, creative actions as well as an occupation of Hydepark. For more information, check out www.resist26.org. Among others groups in Bologna (Italy) and Kiev (Ukraine) also announced to join the resistance at least for that day.

The principle of neoliberal markets oppressing common sense has to come to an end. People are raising

their voices everywhere. Join your local struggle and enjoy the growing hope in this Spring of Resistance!

Details: ism-global.net/SoR_2011

★ *one world ~ one struggle* ★

PS: What's next after the days of action? Join the next Global Chat Meeting (tba on the mailing list/website) to discuss this together. One suggestion so far: Global Day of Action on May 2nd!

International Day of Solidarity with UPR

Activists in Puerto Rico and other regions of the world declared March 11th an International Day of Solidarity for the ongoing struggle against fees and the increasing privatisation of education at the University of Puerto Rico. For months students have been on strike resisting the introduction of US\$800 in fees as well as the occupa-

tion of campuses by police forces.

According to activists in Puerto Rico "this international day of solidarity was convened to support the struggle of students at the UPR. It also sought to place the struggle in Puerto Rico in the global context of the fight for free emancipatory education." The initiators of this day of solidarity also con-

firmed it to be part of the "Spring of Resistance".

At various locations, such as Philadelphia (U.S.A.), Havana (Cuba), Madrid (Spain) and Manchester (UK), events were held to inform people about the ongoing situation at UPR. Elsewhere, for example in Barcelona (Catalonia/Spain), Boston

(U.S.A.), Chicago (U.S.A.), Marburg (Germany), Mexico City (Mexico) and New York City (U.S.A.) rallies ranging between 5 and 500 people were held. Also in San Juan (Puerto Rico) itself hundreds gathered for a rally on Rio Piedras campus.

Furthermore, in Berkeley (U.S.A.), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Galiza (Spain), Granada (Spain), Guatemala and Madison (U.S.A.) activists released statements or recorded video messages of support.

Complete overview of activities:

www.ism-global.net/upr_solidarity_march11 (english) + www.redaccion-pr.net (spanish)

About this newsletter

This newsletter is part of the communication infrastructure of the independent platform "International Student Movement" (ISM). The ISM is being used and shaped by education activists and groups around the world who are struggling against the increasing privatisation of public education and for free emancipatory education for all.

This newsletter is the result of voluntary work done by a few individuals who are passionate about the cause. The positions expressed are not in any way representative for any group or the "International Student Movement" as a whole.

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News updates worldwide

FEBRUARY 28TH

A student rally against the commercialisation of education was attacked by nationalists in *Kiev* (Ukraine). Fortunately nobody was seriously injured.

Students with placards and a megaphone gathered at *Aberdeen* University to protest the introduction of tuition fees in Scotland.

U.S.A. - up to 50 protest actions in 16 states were reported on March 2nd alone. Among others students began to squat spaces at the University of California (*Berkeley*) and University of Wisconsin *Milwaukee*. Organisers on the national level confirmed that this day of action was linked to the SoR.



MARCH 1ST

Still not ♥'ing capitalism! "Spring of Resistance" (SoR) kicked off with a rally in *New Brunswick* (Canada), which was attended by hundreds protesting fees and cuts. Globally United for Free Emancipatory Education for All!

Massive protests led by students took place across *Teheran* (Iran). Many people were attacked with tear gas and shot at by state security forces. Dozens were arrested.

MARCH 2ND

A national month of action to defend public education kicked off across the

MARCH 4TH

Hundreds of students gathered to protest for free education in all nine provinces of *South Africa*. They were organised by the South African Students Congress (SASCO) and linked to the SoR.

Hundreds also came together for protests at different locations of the Commission of Higher Education Department (CHED) on the *Philippines*. Among others students blocked the entrances in *Manila*, *Quezon City* and *Southern Mindanao*. According to the League of Filipino Students (LFS) this action was also part of the SoR.

MARCH 12TH

Tens of thousands joined a demonstration against fees and cuts as well as the privatisation of health and education in *Montreal* (Canada).

MARCH 14TH

About 18,000 people took to the streets of *Sacramento* (U.S.A.) to protest cuts in "higher" education.

MARCH 16TH

As part of the SoR more than 1,200 students from the West Coast of

(SUNY) arranged a conference in *Stony Brook* under the motto "Defining the Future of Public Higher Education", feat. activists from the movement in Puerto Rico.

MARCH 20TH

More than 300 students, teachers, workers and parents came together for a rally in *St. Petersburg* (Russia) as part of the SoR to protest the increasing commercialisation of education and for democratic structures within universities. On the same day



Canada joined a rally in *Victoria* protesting fees and fighting for a proper public funding of education.

MARCH 17TH

Velásquez, a striking teacher, was hit by a tear gas canister on her head and died in the streets of *Tegucigalpa*. For the past few months teachers resisting cuts and the increasing privatisation of education have been regularly battling police and military forces in *Honduras*.

MARCH 18TH

Linked to the SoR activists at the State University of New York

another rally was also held in *Moscow*.

MARCH 21ST

The main building of Radboud University in *Nijmegen* (the Netherlands) was occupied by protesting students for at least four hours. Police forces outside pressured the activists to leave the premises again. This action marked the beginning of a week of action against fees and cuts ("Education is a Right!") in the Netherlands. Highlight will be a huge rally in Den Haag on March 25th.

Students occupied the Registry at the University College of *London* (UCL)

in support of their lecturers' strike called by the University and College Union (UCU).

Soon after students also began to squat *Deptford* Town Hall, which is part of Goldsmiths, University of London, for the same cause.

MARCH 22ND

A planned eviction of a 7 week anti-austerity occupation has ended in violent scenes on campus at the University of *Glasgow* (Scotland, UK), with close to 100 police officers deployed to remove a small army of protesters from the Free Heatherington building. After having been evicted, the 100 or so students promptly went and occupied the Senate Building instead. Faced with this situation the administration gave in and returned the previous building to the activists in exchange with the Senate Building again late at night :D

MARCH 23RD

3,000 students gathered at the University of *Uviéu* (Spain) to protest the Bologna Process, cuts and the increasing privatisation of education - all without the support of any political parties or unions.

Faber building at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of *London* (UK), was occupied in solidarity with the lecturers' strike.

Hundreds protested at the German University of *Cairo* (Egypt) fighting to reinstate fellow 26 students suspended for protesting the university's delay in establishing a much-needed student union.

For the past few days and weeks students at universities across Egypt have been getting organised to get rid of deans who were close to the Mubarak regime as well.